

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE
Week ending the 29th March 1902.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
The Boer war	167	The Ghatal-Chandrakona road in the Midnapore district	175
The release of Lord Methuen	ib.	An Indian lady insulted by a Eurasian guard	ib.
Lord Methuen's release	ib.	Privy accommodation in third class railway carriages	176
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Passengers for Puri at the Howrah railway station	ib.
(a)—Police—		(h)—General—	
Oppression by Messrs. Watson & Co. of Midnapore	ib.	A postal complaint	ib.
Complaints against some <i>punchayets</i> in the Mymensingh district	169	A postal matter	ib.
The sacrilege at the Lat Bhairab temple in Benares	ib.	The Budget	177
Incendiarism in the Chittagong district	ib.	III.—LEGISLATION.	
Thefts in Bikrampur in the Dacca district	ib.	Nil.	
New sort of gambling in Comilla	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
(b)—Working of the Courts—		'Behind the curtain'	
The Subdivisional Magistrate of Tangail in the Mymensingh district	170	...	
A contradiction	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Mr. Morshead's transfer from Comilla	ib.	Nil.	
(c)—Jails—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Nil.		Partial treatment of European wards by the Calcutta Corporation	
(d)—Education—		An invitation to the Coronation	
The question of the minimum pass-marks in English in the Entrance Examination	ib.	Coronation guests of the Government from Bengal	
The Director-General of Education in India	171	...	
The Principal of the Chittagong College	ib.	URIYA PAPERS.	
Lists of text-books promulgated by School Inspectors in Bengal	ib.	Small-pox in Cuttack, Balasore and Mayurbhanj	
Professor Edwards' evidence before the Universities Commission	172	The weather in Orissa	
The proposed increase of the minimum pass-marks in English in the Entrance Examination	ib.	The death of the late Rani of Mayurbhanj mourned	
The Universities Commission in Calcutta	ib.	The reduction of the money-order fee	
The Universities Commission	173	Lord Methuen's defeat and capture	
The question of the Bihar vernaculars	ib.	Death of bamboos in Orissa considered ominous	
Specimens of English in the text-books	174	Small-pox inoculation in Orissa	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		A theft case	
A ferry-ghat in the Rajshahi district	ib.	Food-service in the Jagannath temple	
A plague-stricken <i>bustee</i> in Calcutta	ib.	ASSAM PAPERS.	
Forgery in the Calcutta Municipal Office	ib.	Nil.	
(f)—Questions affecting the land—			
Nil.			

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that when the English Government sent a messenger to Delarey for Lord Methuen's release, everyone thought that

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 20th, 1902.

The Boer war. the Boers would not release Lord Methuen, if the English did not release a great Boer General. But Delarey has unconditionally released Lord Methuen. Delarey's magnanimity has astonished the whole civilised world. The generosity of the Boers has won the admiration of all.

Five thousand fresh troops will be sent to South Africa in this month of March. Does this mean the end of the war?

Lord Wolseley is going to South Africa. It has been given out that he is going with no purpose, but it is rumoured that his real intention is to reconnoitre the position of the Boers and to devise a plan for subjugating them. Lord Roberts conquered the Boer capital, but failed to conquer the Boers. What Lord Wolseley can do remains to be seen.

Perhaps the world has seen no greater heroes than the Boers. If the English could make them their friend and ally, their strength would be the greatest in the world.

2. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th March, referring to the unconditional release of Lord Methuen, observes

BASUMATI,
Mar. 20th, 1902.

The release of Lord Methuen. that Delarey's magnanimity is worthy of imitation by the civilised world. The Boers may be barbarous; they may be poor, but Delarey's lofty generosity has put to shame the mightier and wealthier Powers of the world. This is the real victory of the Boers.

3. Referring to Lord Methuen's capture and release, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes as follows:—

SAMAY,
Mar. 21st, 1902.

Lord Methuen's release. Under the custom of warfare which now exists in the civilised world, none could blame Delarey if he condemned Lord Methuen to death, and that after the English had shot Scheepers and other Boers. But none did expect that from Delarey. We thought that Lord Methuen would be detained by him as a hostage. But Delarey has shown greater magnanimity; he has unconditionally released Lord Methuen.

European presses are loud in their praise of Delarey's magnanimity. In releasing Lord Methuen, Delarey speaks, as it were, to the English:—O you Englishmen! You are strong in men and money, and yet our Generals are suffering banishment, imprisonment and death at your hands; you have determined to exterminate the Boers and to enjoy the Boer land without opposition. But we Boers captured one of your Generals and released him.

Delarey's action will surely create a commotion in the English camp, and modify the views of the English. Already Mr. Brodrick has announced to the House of Commons that no sentence will be passed on Kritzinger before his case has been reconsidered, and that his trial will be postponed for the present. Most probably Kritzinger will not be punished or be only lightly punished. Delarey's action shows that if the English propose reasonable terms of peace to the Boers, they will not refuse them. This is the opportunity, therefore, of establishing peace in South Africa.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 17th March says that

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Mar. 17th, 1902.

Oppression by Messrs. Watson & Co. of Midnapore.

Maulvi Ahmed, M.A., Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, has acquitted the accused in the case in which certain tenants were charged with having assaulted one Binanda Deshwali, a forest guard of Chaita in the employ of Messrs. Watson & Co. of the Midnapore district, and also with having forcibly taken away from his lawful custody, certain cattle that he was taking to the Godapiasal pound. The case has not only ended in the acquittal of the accused; but the Deputy Magistrate is of opinion that the case was a got-up one. In his judgment the Deputy Magistrate observes: "Several witnesses have been examined for the defence, and the way in which the case for the prosecution

has been placed before the Court points to the possible contingency of the story, as put forward by the defence, which is that, for some reason or other, some Nagdis and the two forest guards were told to seize the cattle of the tenants; the two latter refused. A row followed; the *peadaks*, the hired mercenaries, beat one of their fellow-servants, and a case against the tenants was invented." The Deputy Magistrate concludes his judgment with a pathetic appeal to the Magistrate of the district:—

"In conclusion, I think I ought to make one or two passing observations. From the records of several cases which have come judicially before me, the rent dispute between the tenants on one side and Messrs. Watson & Co. as landlords on the other side has reached an acute stage. Tension has gradually become stiffened. If it be the case that the tenants have formed a combination against the landlords' men and are thwarting them in their legitimate functions, it must be made clear to them that they cannot be allowed to do so. On the other hand, if the unscrupulous native *amlas*, menials and underlings of the Company illegally seize the cattle, the chief wealth of the peasantry, with a view to coerce them to submission, it is time that steps were taken to prevent it. In either case, it is desirable that some sort of preventive measures should be adopted for the maintenance of public peace and tranquillity." Our benign Government should no longer remain silent or indifferent. We have read in the columns of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that at one time Bengal was virtually ruled by the indigo-planters, and the Magistrate and the Police were mere pliant tools in their hands. It is to be greatly regretted that matters should have but so little improved since the days of the indigo-planters! We admire the fearless independence of Maulvi Ahmed, the Deputy Magistrate, who, though a native of India, has had the courage to speak boldly against the doings of a powerful European firm of indigo-planters like Messrs. Watson & Co. The fact is that the Deputy Magistrate, like all others who know anything of the movements of Messrs. Watson & Co., has not been able to suppress his feeling of indignation.

The very same day on which the above judgment was delivered, the Deputy Magistrate delivered judgment in another case in which Messrs. Watson & Co. were implicated. It was a case in which a tenant of Messrs. Watson & Co., a duffadar, was alleged to have been severely assaulted. The Deputy Magistrate finds that the complainant was severely assaulted by two Nagdis in the employ of Messrs. Watson & Co., and he thinks it probable that the assault was committed by order of Babu Nadia Binode Pal, an officer in the employ of Messrs. Watson & Co. The Deputy Magistrate says in his judgment:

"As regards Nadia Binode Pal, when I visited the spot the complainant pointed to two trees at two spots as to where Nadia Binode Pal stood. It is probable that he instigated the beating; but it is doubtful if he did so by being present close by." We are bound to observe in this connection that the poor tenants would have fared better if the police had been more honest and dutiful. The Deputy Magistrate makes the following remark in his judgment, in order to show how the police helped Messrs. Watson & Co. in the case against the duffadar:—"In this case the head-constable of Salbani, examined for defence, says that he left Godapiasal at 7-30 A.M., but I remember it distinctly stated by Pran Krishna, tahsildar, that the head-constable was at the Godapiasal bazar on that day up to 3 P.M. If that is the case—and it coincides with the time of the occurrence—then it seems to me that the head-constable has spoken falsely, and an enquiry should be made into his conduct. I find that the information in the station diary as regards this case was noted down in a way not creditable to the police officers concerned. Hara, a duffadar, a man who came on duty to meet the head-constable, was waylaid on the way, and the information of the assault is given by a fellow *chaukidar*, but the higher police officers take no notice of it, and I have strong suspicion in my mind that the police diary has been falsified simply because the other party had influence at its back to command on the evidence on both sides." With the Deputy Magistrate Maulvi Ahmed, we earnestly appeal to Mr. Lusson, the District Magistrate, to enquire into the matter, and protect the poor helpless tenants against oppression by Messrs. Watson & Co., and thus maintain intact the name and fame of British justice in Bengal.

5. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th March hears that a

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 18th, 1902.

Complaints against some *punchayets* in the Mymensingh district.

and when the District Superintendent of Police placed this report before the District Magistrate of Mymensingh, Mr. Bonham-Carter, the latter remarked that the *punchayets* were innocent, that it was not fair to report against them, and that this practice of reporting against *punchayets* ought to be put down. It is further stated that Akshaya Babu, Deputy Magistrate of Tangail, reported to the Magistrate of Mymensingh against some *punchayets* in his jurisdiction, but the Magistrate remarked that the report was not fair and wrote to Akshaya Babu never again to make reports against *punchayets*. Mr. Bonham-Carter's undue partiality for the police is well known; but it now seems that his love for the *punchayets* is not less, and this is causing much mischief in the Mymensingh district. Everybody knows how some *punchayets* abuse their powers and oppress ignorant villagers; and if complaints against them by responsible officers are to be thus not only summarily disposed of, but actually discouraged by the District Magistrate, the *punchayets* will, it is feared, be placed above all lawful check.

6. Referring to the breaking of the image of Lat Bhairab in Benares,

The sacrilege at the Lat Bhairab temple in Benares.

the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika*

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 19th, 1902.

[Calcutta] of the 19th March says that there is a masjid near the temple of Lat Bhairab, and

that in consequence there have been frequent quarrels between the Hindus and the Musalmans. A few days before the occurrence, the chief of the masjid was fined on a complaint by the Hindus. The Musalmans of Benares are mostly of the *jola* or weaver caste; they are generally hot-tempered, and there is a popular idea in Benares that for this they are sought to be kept in good humour by the authorities.

The Hindus suspected these Musalman *jolas* to be the perpetrators of the sacrilege in the temple of Lat Bhairab. They lodged a complaint at the thana. An investigation followed, but it was of no avail. The Hindus then applied to the Magistrate for a personal investigation. The Magistrate, however, replied that "it is useless to enquire personally, as no evidence is forthcoming!" Now, the police inquiry was conducted by Musalman officers. The Hindus asked for a personal investigation or an investigation by Hindu officers. The reply of the Magistrate seems to be quite irrelevant. It has stunned the Hindu public at Benares. They think that if the sacrilege had been committed in a masjid instead of a Hindu temple, the authorities would have shown greater vigour in the prosecution of an enquiry.

There is a deep consternation among the Hindus in Benares over this matter. We think no time ought to be lost by the authorities in acceding to the reasonable request of the Hindus.

7. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 20th March hears of incendiarism

Incendiarism in the Chittagong district.

in various parts of the Chittagong district. The authorities, however, seem to be quite careless and indifferent. They ought to adopt stringent mea-

JYOTI,
Mar. 20th, 1902.

sures for the purpose of putting a stop to this crime. We request the authorities to employ special police in places where the crime is most prevalent.

8. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 23rd March says that reports

DACCA PRAKASH,
Mar. 23rd, 1902.

Thefts in Bikrampur in the Dacca district.

of theft cases are being received every day from various parts of Bikrampur in the Dacca district.

It is said that some bad characters have formed themselves into a band, and they commit thefts in five or six houses in a village on a single night. Will the police look sharp? Of late, there have been two chaukidars in place of only one. Yet thefts are on the increase. The fact is, the chaukidars are scarcely seen on their rounds at night; and it is sometimes said that they even abet thefts. The matter is worth a serious and prompt inquiry.

9. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 25th March says that some

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Mar. 25th, 1902.

New sort of gambling in Comilla.

up-countrymen have started gambling of a new sort in Comilla. Some two-anna pieces, four-anna

pieces and eight-anna pieces are placed at short distances on a table. A spectator wishing to gamble, has to purchase a brass

ring for a quarter-anna, and then to throw it from a distance on the table. If the ring is so thrown as to contain within its circle a two-anna, four-anna or eight-annas piece, he wins it; otherwise he loses the brass ring. The player is rarely seen to win; and in this way many unwary persons are mulcted out of their good money. Is not this gambling, pure and simple? We think it should be stopped by the authorities.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR
Mar. 18th, 1902.

10. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 18th March writing to the same paper from Tangail, remarks that although Babu Akshaya Kumar Chatterji, the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail, is loved and respected by all for his kindness and affability, and, above all, for his strict eye over the police, the people have some grievances against him. First he holds his Court till a late hour, sometimes 8 or 9 P.M., and this causes much public inconvenience. Secondly, he often changes dates of hearing, without caring for the time and convenience of the litigants and their witnesses. Will Akshaya Babu kindly mend his ways?

JYOTI,
Mar. 20th, 1902.

A contradiction.

11. A letter (over the signature of Babus Rajani Kanta Sen, Pleader, Sasi Bhusan Sen, pleader, Beni Madhab Kanungo, mukhtear, and Sarat Chandra Das, pleader) is published in the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 20th March, contradicting the allegations regarding the Munsif of South Raojan in the Chittagong district that had been made in a letter to the same paper of the 20th February last (see Report on Native Papers for 8th March, paragraph 11). The correspondent says that the Munsif has never called any respectable native of Chittagong or of South Raojan a boor or *jungly*, as alleged. He never dismisses a complaint with an air of haughtiness, as alleged; on the contrary, he listens to every complaint with attention and patience. Sometimes he holds his Court till a late hour; but that cannot be helped owing to pressure of business. He showed no disrespect to Mr. Dowling of the Kodala tea gardens; on the contrary, Mr. Dowling received every mark of courtesy, and gave evidence sitting on a chair, and the Munsif did not rise till a late hour only to finish his deposition.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Mar. 25th, 1902.

Mr. Morshead's transfer from Comilla.

12. The *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 25th March, referring to Mr. Morshead's transfer to Calcutta as Collector of Customs, says that during his incumbency as Magistrate of Tippera Mr. Morshead did much to put down theft, dacoity and lawlessness with a strong hand. It was Mr. Morshead, again, who made ugly disclosures regarding the District Engineer's office and the Local Board's office. His early transfer from the field of useful labour is much regretted.

(d)—Education.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 19th, 1902.

The question of the minimum pass marks in English in the Entrance Examination.

13. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 19th March writes as follows;—

On the 15th March last the question of increasing the minimum pass marks in English in the Entrance Examination from 33 per cent. to 40 per cent. was discussed in a meeting of the Fellows of the Calcutta University. The measure was recommended by the Committee which had been appointed to find out the cause of the large number of failures in the B.A. Examinations in recent years. The question was hotly discussed in the meeting. One gentleman said that the 33 per cent. rule had obtained since the establishment of the University, whilst it was only since 1891 that B.A. Examinations were attended with miserable results.

Another gentleman said that the doors of both the Government and the mercantile offices are closed against those who do not pass the Entrance Examination, and that if the Entrance Examination is made stiffer, many people will be deprived of their means of subsistence.

This matter reminds us of a judgment delivered by a Kazi who ordered the execution of a sword-maker, as the manufacturer of a weapon with which a man had committed a murder.

14. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 20th March says that Lord George Hamilton has appointed a young man of 35

The Director-General of Education in India.

possessing absolutely no experience of India, as Director-General of Education in India, to rule

over the experienced Provincial Directors of Public Instruction. He will draw a salary in India ten times as much as he is drawing in England as Private Secretary to the Secretary to the Board of Education there. Even Anglo-Indian papers are finding fault with this appointment, and especially this increase of salary which is out of all proportions. We do not see how he will improve Indian education, but it is probable that he will prove a useful assistant to Lord Curzon in controlling the Education Department and leading it by the nose.

JYOTI
Mar. 20th, 1902.

15. The same paper publishes a letter in which the writer expresses his regret that Babu Dwija Das Datta, Principal of the Chittagong College, should busy himself so much about preaching Brahmoism. The

The Principal of the Chittagong College.

Principal seems to think that this forms his first and primary duty, and that the College affairs must not receive precedence over it. He is often seen lecturing in favour of Brahmoism. He often misquotes and misinterprets passages from Hindu and Muhammadan religious books to serve his purpose, thus leading his hearers into error.

JYOTI.

16. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes as follows:—

Lists of text-books promulgated by School Inspectors in Bengal.

An examination of the lists of text-books promulgated by some of the School Inspectors in Bengal leads one to think that these Inspectors

belong to different Educational Departments. For instance, one Inspector has fixed two costly Bengali books of prose and poetry, and one Bengali grammar for the fourth class. Does the new scheme require three different books in Bengali prose, poetry and grammar for this class? Are there no cheap Bengali books containing both prose and poetry? Another Inspector has made physical geography a subject of study in the fifth class. Is it possible for little boys reading in the fifth class to grasp physical geography? Another Inspector has fixed, for the fifth class, text-books similar to those for the Middle Scholarship Examination. Is it intended by this that the students of the fifth class will appear at the Middle Scholarship Examination? Another Inspector has fixed the same text-books for the fifth and sixth classes, excepting those on English and on Bengali literature. Does not the Inspector know how young are the boys who read in the sixth class. One Inspector has fixed many alternative text-books on certain subjects with the intention of pleasing their authors. Another Inspector has ruled that arithmetic, *subhankari* and geometry should be read in Bengali in the seventh class, and has given a large list of alternative text-books on these subjects, whilst he has fixed only one book for each of these subjects—history, geography and science—which are to be read in the same class. One Inspector has divided the eighth class into two sections, whilst another has, besides dividing it into three, formed two infant classes. Another Inspector has simply ordered the text-books for the Upper Primary Examination to be taught from the seventh class, but does not say what those text-books are. School authorities will have great difficulty in securing lists of these text-books. Another Inspector has fixed Bengali text-books on literature and grammar, but English text-books on history and geography for the fifth class. He has made natural history and the history of England subjects of study in the sixth class. We fail to understand the necessity of teaching the history of England in this class. We had thought that the Inspectors' lists of text-books for the lower classes would be formed from the list of text-books which has been authorised by the Director of Public Instruction. But the Inspectors have patronised authors whose books do not find a place in that list.

BASUMATI.
Mar. 20th, 1902.

Furious controversies sometimes occur in the District Boards in connection with the selection of text-books. Such a controversy is at present going on in the Midnapore District Board. It is the Deputy Inspectors who generally come out victorious from these controversies. Those therefore who can win over the Deputy Inspectors to their side win. Even the Inspectors sometimes select text-books at the request of Rajas and Maharajas. Considering all this

the Director of Public Instruction should keep the work of selecting text-books for the different examinations in his own hand.

Books written by the head clerks of some of the Inspectors have been made text-books. These books are, so far as we know, worthless and quite unfit to be text-books. We have heard that the Director generally refuses to appoint an officer, who is an author, to do inspection work. In appointing head clerks also it should be seen that they are not authors. And those head clerks who are authors should be transferred to other posts in the Department.

HITAVADI.
Mar. 21st, 1902.

17. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes as follows:—

Professor Edwards' evidence before the Universities Commission.

In giving his evidence before the Universities Commission, Professor Edwards of the Presidency College said that the cause of the students' deficiency in English now-a-days was the Government's culpable negligence in the matter of English education, as is shown by the fact that whilst there were 16 Professors of English in the Bengal Educational Service in 1880, there are only six now. But the writer thinks that there is another cause of this evil. Formerly even people of no very high educational pretensions felt ashamed if they failed to write good English. But now-a-days even Masters of Art and Ray Chand Prem Chand scholars feel no shame in expressing their thoughts in bad English. This lamentable state of things has been brought about not only by the want of high-class professors, but also by the comparative inferiority of the text-books which are now used. In these days students are not required to study the great ancient authors even for the highest examinations of the University. Addison, Johnson, &c., have been almost driven out of the field, not to speak of Chaucer and Spenser. Even those good authors whose books find a place in the University curriculum are not studied in the spirit in which they ought to be studied. Students stuff their minds with keys and notes in order to get through the examinations anyhow. They cannot thoroughly study their books on account of the enormity of their number as well as on account of the manner in which they are examined.

An increase of the number of high-class professors will not therefore alone make students proficient in English. There is no lack of teachers in Bengal, and private schools and colleges will exist, however parsimonious the Government may be in giving money and encouragement to education. If Mr. Edwards is really concerned about the Indian students, let him reform the existing system of teaching and examination. In one place Mr. Edwards said that the teaching of the vernacular in the lower classes is a great hinderance to English education. But the contrary is the fact. A little study of Bengali greatly facilitates a Bengali student's study of English. In fact, English and Bengali are studied side by side in the lower classes, and the upper classes of vernacular schools are very poorly attended. The study of Bengali is also needed because the study of Sanskrit, which is the students' second language, is difficult without a knowledge of Bengali.

HITAVADI.

18. The same paper says that the authorities of the Calcutta University have determined to increase the minimum pass-marks in English in the Entrance Examination from 33 to 40 per cent. in order to compel students to pay greater attention to the study of English.

The proposed increase of the minimum pass-marks in English in the Entrance Examination.

In the opinion of the writer the proposal, if carried out, will not have the desired effect, and students will not acquire proficiency in English so long as the existing system of teaching and examination will not be reformed.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 22nd, 1902.

19. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March criticises some of the evidence given before the Universities Commission in Calcutta:—

The Universities Commission in Calcutta.

The Rev. Father Lafont said that none but people known to the University should be appointed as teachers in schools, but he did not say how the University should know such men. But however such may be known, there can be no doubt that a control exercised by the University over the appointment of teachers would mean the ruin of many influential schools and colleges, and would deprive many people of their means of subsistence. Why should the University be vested with a control

over the appointment of teachers in schools and colleges? Do the heads of institutions intentionally neglect to appoint good and efficient men as teachers? The Father condemned the present system of election of Fellows, and said that he hated canvassing, which found great favour under it. But what happens in elections in England also happens in elections in India. If canvassing prevails in municipal elections, why should it not also prevail in University elections?

The Commission should pay especial attention to what the Father said about the present system of selecting text-books. Authors are, in fact, often patronised to the loss and hardship of students and their fathers.

The Rev. K. S. MacDonald's evidence—"There is no reason," runs his note, "why Theology * * should not be encouraged, or why those who have a taste for it should not be brought under the attractive and inspiring influence of Academic degree and Government recognition." The reverend gentleman is a Missionary and religious preaching is his profession. He could not therefore avoid the temptation of raising the subject of religion before even the Universities Commission. The question of "Academic degree and Government recognition" of Theology naturally frightens us. So long however as the reverend gentleman does not say how theology should be examined by the University, we can say nothing on the subject.

Babu Krishna Kamal Bhattacharyya is reported to have recommended the study of Bengali instead of Sanskrit. But we have learned from a trustworthy source that he said nothing of the kind. What he really said is not yet known. Much of the modern Bengali literature is English in sentiment. It is in the Sanskrit literature alone that Hindu thought and sentiment is seen. Can it, therefore, be the intention of Krishna Kamal Babu to have the study of Sanskrit abolished in the University?

20. *Al Punch* [Patna City] of the 22nd March is glad to see the way

AL PUNCH,
Mar. 22nd, 1902.

The Universities Commission. in which the Universities Commission is doing its work an agury of a thorough change in the present system of University education. There is no denying that students who receive education in any of the Indian Universities become totally incapacitated for all worldly business by reason of the severe mental strain which they have to undergo in getting up the large number of text-books. The Universities being merely examining bodies, are unable to regulate the system of teaching adopted in the different schools and colleges. The teachers, with a view to make a good number of their pupils pass the University examinations, compel them to read hard. If the Universities be converted into teaching bodies, as is the case in England, this defect will no longer exist. When a learned Viceroy like Lord Curzon has directed his attention to the question, there is every hope that the India Universities will be thoroughly reformed.

21. In reference to the memorial submitted to Government by the *Nagri*

AL PUNCH.

The question of the Bihar vernaculars.

Hitkarini Sabha of Muzaffarpur, praying that Hindi should be recognized as the vernacular speech of Bihar, and that the vernacular text-books taught in that province should be all in Hindi, the same paper observes that it is a regret that the Sabha should entertain a hostile feeling against the Urdu language, which is the vernacular of the Musalmans of Bihar. One fails to understand how the Sabha says that the majority of the Musalman population of Bihar speak Hindi, when the fact is that epistolary correspondence among the Bihari Musalmans is carried on almost exclusively in Urdu, while the language which they speak in their domestic circles is one which differs considerably from the pure Hindi spoken by the Behari Hindus. We Behari Musalmans are quite in agreement with the circular issued by the Education Department to the effect that vernacular text-books should be adopted both in Hindi and Urdu.

It is hoped that the Government will carefully consider the question. If the Government accepts the suggestion offered by the Sabha, it will be guilty of putting obstacles in the way of the progress of the Musalmans. For a Musalman student the learning of Hindi is the same as the learning of English, because both of them are totally foreign languages to him. If he is compelled to read Hindi, he will have to read four languages, viz., Hindi, English,

Persian and Urdu, while a Hindu student will have to read only two of them. This inconvenience, added to those which keep the Musalmans in the back ground, will damp their new ardour for English education.

PRATIVASI,
Mar. 4th, 1902.

22. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th March has the following in English:—

Specimens of English in the text-books.

It is not given to everyone to tell a story gracefully and in a winning manner. Every one is not born to write and converse. These are truisms, but they require to be repeated for showing how the University authorities here do their duty. Sir Francis Bacon observes that a well-written book compared with its rivals and antagonists is like Moses' serpent that immediately swallowed up and devoured those of the Egyptians. Just the reverse is the case here. It is the bad book, the carelessly-written book, the book that can boast of unpardonable mistakes, that supplants the good ones. Students of the Calcutta University have no taste for historical study. History being an optional subject of study for the F. A. candidates, most students seek to do without it.

The history the students of the Entrance class have to read is mostly a joyless mnemonic that serves to repel the learner. Hence the distaste for history which lasts for life. But this is not all. An Indian history has been prescribed this year, from which we cull these beautiful specimens of English.

The Hindus cultivate science from the earliest times (page 10).

Truth and duty (?) were greatly valued by the early Hindus (page 16).

Confirmation and illustration of what we have said meet us at almost every step (page 17).

He gave up the jizya or poll-tax on non-Musalmans (page 81).

Hindu rites and customs which appeared evil to him (page 82).

He was perhaps the most magnificent (?) prince that ever ruled in India (page 90).

In appointing officers and generals he always took care to join such colleagues with them as would be checks upon their action (page 101).

"Nearly two centuries and a half passed from the accession of Babar to the throne of Delhi and the ascendancy of the British power in India (page 119).

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Mar. 19th, 1902.

23. The Hatra correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 19th March complains that the *ijardar* of the ferry

A ferry ghat in the Rajshahi district.

ghat, in the river Naohata on the road from Kashair Hat to Rajshahi, extorts from passengers double the fare prescribed by the Rajshahi District Board, during six months in the year. He demands exorbitant fare at night and often refuses to ply. Will the Rajshahi District Board see to it?

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 20th, 1902.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March complains of the

A plague stricken bustee in Calcutta.

extremely filthy condition of the bustee which is situate between Nanda Kumar Chaudhuri's 2nd Lane and Sukea's Street in front of the Hon'ble Joy Govinda Law's residence. Almost all the latrines in this bustee are open. The refuse of the bustee is collected on Nanda Kumar Chaudhuri's 2nd Lane and is allowed to decompose there, making the place extremely unhealthy. Plague is raging virulently in the bustee and its neighbourhood. Eight deaths from plague have occurred in the house of one Chandra Kalu (oilman). The houses in which deaths occur from plague are not promptly disinfected. It was only after letters had been written to the Health Officer of District I and to the Chairman that Chandra Kalu's house was disinfected. Small-pox and cholera are also raging in the locality.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 21st, 1902.

25. Referring to the case in which one Gopal Chandra Biswas applied, on the 17th March last, to the Alipore Munsifi for

Forgery in the Calcutta Municipal Office.

permission to prosecute Messrs. Greer and D'Cruz of the Calcutta Municipality for forgery, the

Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes as follows:—

What explanation would the Municipal authorities offer of the fact that more money was realised from the rate-payers than was due from them? Is

not this the only explanation that even those rate-payers who had paid their rates before but had lost their bills paid them again for fear of Municipal *zulm*? For who would pay his rate twice if he had no fear of being oppressed? But who committed this *zulm* is not known. It has been proved in Court that the Chairman himself has been obliged to favour forgery in the Municipal Office. But he and some other Municipal officers are so much devoid of conscience and sense of shame that they do not think that to hush up forgery is a great sin. The commission of an error is one thing and the production of a forged document in the Municipal Office is quite another thing. How can we consider that Chairman to be a conscientious man who tries to hush up forgery and does not inquire who committed it?

In a recent municipal meeting, when Babu Sita Nath Ray asked the Chairman as to who had committed the forgery, he evaded the question by giving irrelevant replies. It is true that no one suspects Mr. Greer of having any connection with the forgery. But it is also true that everyone believes that either under undue partiality for his subordinates or with the view of hiding a departmental scandal he is trying to hush up the case. Had the municipal money been his private property which had descended to him by virtue of inheritance, he could certainly have overlooked, without fear of blame, theft, forgery, &c., committed in respect of it. But the municipal money is the rate-payers' life-blood, and he has no right to allow the man who squanders it in false cases, &c., to escape unpunished, or to squander it himself.

There is no wonder that under such circumstances Mr. Greer's name will be hated by us. Justice demands that Messrs. Greer and D'Cruz should be called upon to show cause why they should not be prosecuted under the Penal Code. Whether they will be prosecuted or not is quite another question. One of them is an Englishman and a high official, and another, whether superior or subordinate, is a pantalooned Eurasian. Theft is not theft and forgery is not forgery in their case.

(4)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

26. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 17th March publishes a letter

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Mar. 17th, 1902.

The Ghatal-Chandrakona road in the Midnapore district.

from the inhabitants of Ghatal in the Midnapore district, protesting against the contemplated abandonment of the Ghatal Chandrakona road by the Midnapore District Board, and says that even if, in addition to the Midnapore-Jherriah line, a railway line were constructed from Chandrakona to Ghatal, the value and importance of this road as a great trade route in the district would not diminish in the least. It is inconceivable that the opening of the Midnapore-Jherriah line would divert the traffic of the road, inasmuch as it lies ten or twelve miles from Chandrakona and twenty-five or twenty-six miles from Ghatal. Nearly eight hundred carts, two thousand bullocks and a vast number of pedestrians go by this road every day; but if, as is at present under contemplation, the Midnapore District Board were to discontinue the annual repairs to the road, convert it, in a manner, into a *kuicha* road, and thus render it unfit for use as a trade route, tradespeople would have no other alternative except resorting to the railway line. This would cause serious inconvenience, hardship and loss to traders and to the public at large; and the Chairman and the Members of the District Board should seriously ponder before coming to a final decision as to the fate of the road.

27. Referring to the case which occurred on the 11th March last at the Baidyanath railway station, and in which a

BASUMATI.
Mar. 20th, 1902.

An Indian lady insulted by a Eurasian guard.

Eurasian guard of the East Indian Railway forced a respectable Bengali lady to come down from the second class compartment in which she was travelling and was saved by the timely help of a native gentleman who was travelling in a reserved compartment, and in respect of which Messrs Dignam & Co., Solicitors, have written a letter to the Agent of the Railway Company, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th March writes as follows:—

The Eurasian guard perhaps thought that by driving out a native woman in order to make room for a European lady he was doing an act of great chivalry and performing his duty as a servant of the Railway Company. We

Indians can only feel pained and burn with indignation at insults offered to our mothers, sisters and daughters by Eurasians; but, cowards as we are, we do not know how to take our revenge. The native gentleman, who helped the Bengali lady, did no doubt do a work of great kindness, but if he had been a white man and if the insulted woman had been a European lady, the offending guard must have received a hard lesson at his hands. The insulted Bengali lady has threatened the Railway Company with prosecution, but it does not lie in the power of every Indian lady to do so. Insulted by Eurasians, most Indian ladies can only wash away their indignity with their tears. The Agent's reply to Messrs Dignam & Co.'s letter is awaited with great interest.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 22nd, 1902.

28. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd March says that Government has earned the gratitude of all Indians by ordering latrine accommodation in all third and intermediate class railway carriages. The provision of separate carriages for European and native passengers on Indian railways is the next necessary item of reform which should be attended to.

PRATIVASI,
Mar. 24th, 1902.

29. The special correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th March writes a letter to that paper, enumerating the inconveniences and hardships, personally witnessed by him, of passengers for Puri at the Howrah railway station. Passengers for Puri at the Howrah railway station. The train for Puri, which leaves Howrah at 10-33 P.M. (Calcutta time), is kept waiting at the No. 2 platform. There are several passages leading to that platform; but only one is used, and through this narrow passage all passengers—first, second, intermediate and third class—men, women and children—must go. As a matter of course, there was great jostling and elbowing; and when a second-class passenger asked the permission of the Eurasian ticket examiner to go by a different passage, he was removed from that place by the police, the ticket-examiner saying—"you must go by that way—this is the only way." The passenger had his family with him; and to avoid the rush, he paid something to the man standing at the passage to No. 3 platform, and by that passage got to No. 2 platform. The passengers are made to wait and crowd at the entrance to the platform till only a very short time before the starting of the train. Hence there is a great rush when the examination of tickets commences, in order to get to the platform. On Tuesday night, a respectable lady fainted away while in the midst of the crowd and the rush, and her life was saved by the kind services of an employé of Messrs. Kellner & Co.

It is impossible for a large number of passengers, especially the females, to get to the platform through the narrow passage in so short a time. After the train had started on Tuesday night, several ladies were seen who could not make their way to the platform and thus failed to get into the train. In case the higher authorities feel inclined to make an enquiry, it is stated that some of these ladies held tickets Nos. 4352, 4354, 4355, 4356, 4365, 4370, &c.

(h)—General.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

30. A correspondent, writing to the *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 13th March from village Bhajandanga in the Gaibanda subdivision of the Rangpur district, complains that the peon of the Galna post-office, by which the village is served, never turns up regularly. This causes much inconvenience to the villagers. Will the authorities see to this?

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Mar. 19th, 1902.

31. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 19th March asks what has been done with the money which is said to have been allotted by Lord Curzon and placed at the disposal of the Postal Department, for the benefit of overworked and low-paid postal clerks and peons?

The necessities of life were formerly much cheaper than now, and therefore these servants of the Postal Department now find it extremely difficult to make the two ends meet. Government provides house accommodation for Sub and Branch Postmasters. Why not extend this much-prized favour to clerks and peons also? Something ought also to be done in the direction of

increasing their salary, and granting a special allowance to those employed at head offices.

32. Referring to the Budget statement, the *Pratvani* [Calcutta] of the 24th March says that it is inexplicable why the Finance Minister has set down the proceeds of the

The Budget.

land revenue in 1902-03 at Rs. 1,01,97,000 less than in 1901-02. There is no apprehension of a famine or wide spread scarcity in 1902-03, while such an apprehension did exist when the Budget for 1901-02 was prepared. Perhaps the real explanation of this inconsistency is that the Finance Minister was led to show a smaller income, in order to leave no room for any public demand for a reduction of taxation on account of a surplus. The Government ought first to reduce the taxes in the event of a surplus. In case of any unforeseen emergency, the Government may raise a loan or make some other suitable arrangement. The Government holds the public money in trust; and the public ought to benefit by any existing surplus at the Government treasury. It is open to serious question if the Government has any right to deprive the public of the advantages of a surplus in anticipation of an unforeseen emergency.

PRATIVASI,
Mar. 24th, 1902.

IV—NATIVE STATES.

33. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 19th March says:—Kalamchora is an outpost in the Sonamurha subdivision of Independent Tippera. In 1305 a general enhance-

'Behind the curtain'

ment of rent was announced. There was a general rising in consequence, among the tenants, who for six years sternly refused to pay at the enhanced rates. They committed two murders in British Tippera. Babu Durga Mohan Ray, the then Deputy Magistrate of Sonamurha, made a proposal of sending fifty sepoys to put down the rising; but somehow or other Babu Durga Mohan was transferred from Sonamurha, and Babu Jagat Chandra Sen, B.A., a young and energetic officer, who took his place, did much to improve the state of things. On his transfer, an aged tehsildar of Khandal was appointed to the office. The appointment was not approved of by the people; but the officials of Independent Tippera heeded them not. An incident, however, has recently occurred which shows how reasonable or well-founded was the public disapproval of the appointment. One Sahabuddi living in village Bhabermurha in British Tippera, took forcible possession of some *khas* land in Kalamchora without the knowledge of the Deputy Magistrate of Sonamurha, grew paddy on it, and reaped the harvest in due time. The Deputy Magistrate seemed to have been sleeping all this time. Suddenly one day he awoke to a sense of duty and brought a complaint against Sahabuddi at the Kalamchora thana, laying a charge of theft against him. The Naib Darogas of Kalamchora and Adampur with a *posse* of constables went to arrest Sahabuddi's sons. The latter, however, severely assaulted the former, and arrested Amber Ali, a constable of the Independent Tippera Police, and brought a case at the Kotwali at Comilla. By order of the Political Agent, the matter was referred to the Joint-Magistrate of Comilla for decision; and Amber Ali has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment, while all of the opposite party have been acquitted. An appeal has been preferred before the District Judge, and his judgment is not yet known. Now, we ask, who is responsible for this humiliation of the Tippera Raj in this matter? Why was the trial held in British Tippera and not in Independent Tippera? Has the Political Agent, then, really no confidence in the courts of Independent Tippera? The Maharaja of Tippera and all the high officials are now in Calcutta in connection with the appointment of a Jubaraj; in the meantime things are happening behind the curtain which would go far to humiliate the Tippera Raj and lower its prestige immensely.

PRATINIDHI,
Mar. 19th, 1902.

VI—MISCELLANEOUS.

34. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation has publicly notified the prohibition of throwing refuse on certain streets and lanes in wards Nos. 7, 12, 13 and 14 after 8-30 P.M. and before 6-30 A.M. from

Partial treatment of European wards by the Calcutta Corporation.

BASUMATI,
Mar. 20th, 1902.

March 15. Any violation of this prohibitory order will be visited with a prosecution. Now, it appears that mostly Europeans reside in these streets and lanes. So far so good. But it is evident that the Corporation cares little for the public health in native quarters. There are many lanes in the northern division of the metropolis where refuse and other dirty matter are allowed to accumulate for several days together, tainting the atmosphere and scattering germs of disease all round. The drains are the filthiest imaginable, and emit a stench that is simply unbearable. Will the Chairman of the Corporation see to this?

BASUMATI
Mar. 20th, 1902.

35. The same paper says that everybody rejoices at the honour that has been shown to Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohan Tagore, the head of the Bengali community, by inviting his worthy son Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore as a guest of the Government of India at the coming coronation in London.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 20th, 1902.

36. Referring to the Government's invitation of Mirza Wasif Ali Bahadur of Murshidabad and Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore of Calcutta, to be present at the Emperor's coronation in London as guests of the Government, the *Sanivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th March says that Mirza Wasif Ali Bahadur, whose forefathers ruled Bengal, Behar and Orissa, is no doubt a fit person to be a guest of the Government. But Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore, the adopted son of Maharaja Jatindra Mohan Tagore, who possesses no great family distinction, cannot claim the same honour. A descendant of Rani Bhavani or of Raja Krishna Chandra should have been invited as a guest of the Government instead of Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore. Again, it is a matter of great regret that Government has not invited a representative of the educated and influential middle classes of Bengal to be one of its guests.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Mar. 15th, 1902.

37. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th March states: that small-pox and chicken-pox are raging in the Cuttack town. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 12th March states that a virulent type of small-pox is increasing the rate of mortality in Mayurbhanj and Balasore.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

38. All the native papers of Orissa state that there have been no rains for many weeks, that the temperature is rising day after day, and that rain is urgently wanted.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

39. All the native papers of Orissa sympathise with the Raja of Mayurbhanj on his bereavement, and state that his Rani, who died of small-pox, was an esteemed woman of sterling quality. Her loss is keenly felt by all classes of people in Mayurbhanj.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

40. The reduction of money-order fee from annas two to anna one on the remittance of small sums varying from one rupee, to ten rupees, is approved by all the papers of Orissa, and it is hoped that a steady increase in the number of such money-orders will make good the revenue which will be temporarily lost in the shape of money-order commission.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

41. The British reverses in South Africa, due to the defeat and capture of Lord Methuen and his men, are noticed in a sympathetic tone by all the papers of Orissa, all of which recommend patient labour with steady and efficient materials, and calmly and resignedly wait for a better turn of fortune.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

42. Referring to the dying bamboos in the Balasore district, of which 99 per cent. are said to be in a moribund state, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 13th March states that though the bamboo-seeds have proved very valuable to the poor and needy at the present moment, the association of dying bamboos with an approaching famine is so strong in the minds of the people that the fear of an ominous future has made them uneasy and apprehensive.

43. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th March writes an article on small-pox, and tries to point out that though inoculation has been made punishable under the law, no organised attempts have been made to render vaccination successful. It is said that the matter supplied to the vaccinators is not always good, and that a fee of two annas per case is not such as to induce a vaccinator to attend to it properly. Seeing that vaccination has failed in many cases, some have taken to inoculation, though stealthily and with the connivance of the local police. There are many who are neither vaccinated nor inoculated, and they fall an easy prey to small-pox. The writer thinks that the whole subject requires a thorough investigation, and that, if need be, the rate of fee may be increased to eight annas and the number of head vaccinators increased to the required number. The police and the village panchayet may be asked to render assistance whenever necessary.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Mar. 15th, 1902.

44. The same paper regrets that jewellery and notes, valued at Rs. 7,000, belonging to the Rani of Baroda, who was on a pilgrimage to Puri, were stolen at Satyabadi, and that the offenders have not been brought to justice, though the police is after them.

UTKALDIPIKA.

45. The same paper states that the services in the Jagannath temple in Puri are not conducted punctually, and as a consequence many are put to great inconvenience, for a large number of men and women depend on the temple for the supply of their daily food.

UTKALDIPIKA.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 29th March, 1902.

